

(ESTABLISHED JAN. 1, 1914)

TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 1955

# High School Student Producing Films



HERALD photo

**DO NOT DISTURB . . .** Mrs. Eleanor Gilbert goes over some of her notes in writing one of her latest stories. The young housewife recently won several awards for her literary efforts, and is looking forward to having some of her material published.

## Honors Reward Writer at Work

Visitors about to ring the bell at 133 Via Alameda will find a sign, "Do not disturb between 9 and 3. Writer at work."

The writer in question is a determined young woman, Eleanor Gilbert, who has managed to win several prizes for her writing recently. In between taking care of her husband, four children and new home, she manages to find time for her writing.

**Wins Contests**  
The latest honor to come her way was the South Bay Manuscripters Christmas story award for "The Little Brother," an original writing effort. She won another Manuscripters award last summer, and took 40th place in the Writer's Digest contest, which accepted some 10,000 entries. Despite her honors, Mrs. Gilbert has yet to receive any money for her efforts, but she isn't discouraged. She has received favorable replies from several publishers, asking to see more of her work. She is hopeful that she can get some material published in the near future.

Writing isn't just a passing fancy with her. A native of southwest Arizona, she wrote for her high school paper and served as feature editor of the University of Arizona student newspaper. After that, she worked on a number of papers, following her husband while he was in the service.

**Writes Short Stories**  
As the Gilbert family grew, she was forced to give up newspaper work, and contented herself with short story

ing a course in creative writing at Palos Verdes College.

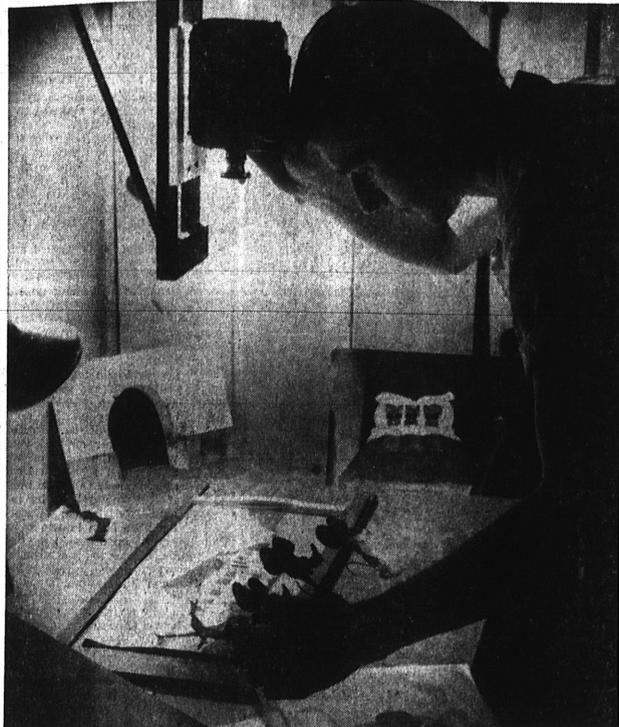
Her husband, Ivan, one of her most devoted fans, aids her with advice, and in helping around the house so that she can have time to write. A meteorologist, he advised her on some of the scientific aspects of a science fiction story she hopes to have published.

Ideas for writing come from all sorts of places, the young author declared. When her young daughter queried at the breakfast table one morning, "Mommy, why do women wear girdles?", she decided to find out. The result was her prize-winning Writer's Digest story.

**Recounts Experience**  
"The Little Brother," her Christmas story, was based on some of her early experiences in Arizona, involving some small Indian children. Characters in her stories usually combine the characteristics of different persons Mrs. Gilbert has known. Despite the mixture, she always tries to keep characters true to life.

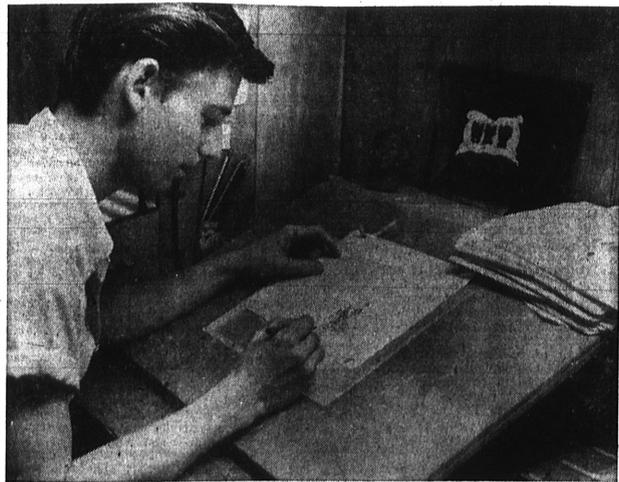
"I try to think just what each character would normally do in the situation in which I placed him," she declared.

Although Mrs. Gilbert isn't writing about it, her own story might be worth watching. She is hoping that her writing efforts will bring a happy ending, and she has a good start.



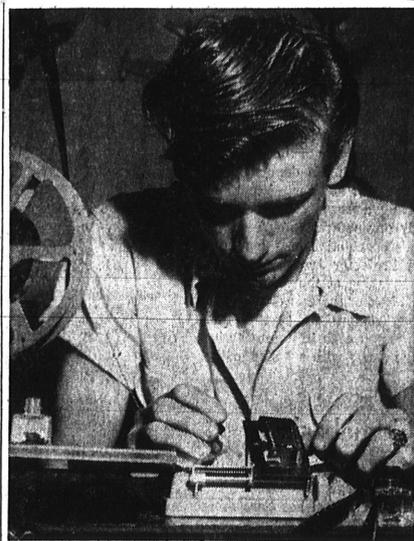
HERALD photo

**FILMS CARTOON . . .** With one hand on the camera, Pierce gets ready to place a plastic "cel" over a background for filming his animated "Three Blind Mice" movie. Pictures are taken in single shots, each "cel" carrying the action of the drawn figures through a step or evolution. Other backgrounds are seen on work bench.



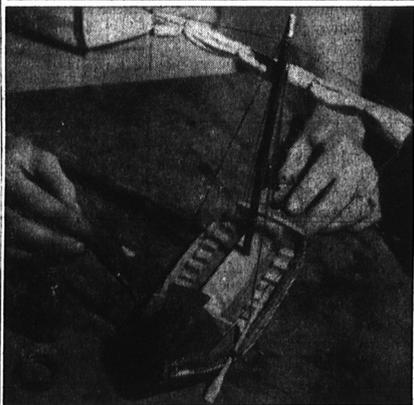
(Herald Photo)

**"SEE HOW THEY RUN" . . .** Bruce Pierce carefully sketches another movement of the figures in a cartoon he is filming. It takes 1900 separate drawings to film six minutes of animated sequence. Here he lays several drawings over each other to facilitate drawing leg and arm movement.



HERALD photo

**SPLICER . . .** After filming hundreds of feet of cartoons or action, Pierce snips and glues the film into proper sequence, with the use of a "film editor." He must follow a carefully prepared script to get correct sequence of events.



(Herald Photo)

**MOVIE MINIATURE . . .** Pierce paints the finishing touches on this model ship, to be used in his next movie on Egypt. The vessel is finished on one side only, that which will face the camera. He makes all models and miniatures.



HERALD photo

**PAINTS FIGURES . . .** These tiny men, being painted by Pierce, will be used in his Egyptian live-action movie. Though he makes most of his "props," he purchased the tiny figures, and modified them for his purpose. At left are pillars used in a Greek film.

## Young Artist Draws, Films Own Cartoons

By DICK FRIEND

Look out, Walt Disney, here comes Bruce Pierce.

Bruce is young, he's only a junior at Torrance High School, but neighbors of the Pierces, at 5337 Doris Way, will bet their bottom dollar that Bruce is going places.

A talented art student at the high school, Bruce became interested in home movies four years ago, and put the combination to work for him.

Now he's produced and filmed a cartoon of "Three Blind Mice," photographed in color portions of a live-action cinema, the "Burning of Rome," and currently is working on a live-action production on Egypt.

The cartoon, which entails 1900 separate drawings for six minutes of film, is in black and white. Though he hasn't finished it, his room is loaded with pen backgrounds, cels, and the necessary material for filming animated cartoons.

Bruce sketches his figures on 8x10 inch pieces of paper, each carrying a step or an arm movement through its evolution. When completely drawn, some are transferred to transparent plastic sheets, or cels, to be placed over backgrounds.

**Uses Single Frames**  
When finally ready to be photographed, he places the drawings in a special easel, and films the figures with the single-frame device on his movie camera.

Live-action films are done entirely in miniature, with scale size pillars, bridges, and structures. He tunneled out a canal in the backyard for a ship-on-the-sea sequence, and while the neighbors watched, carefully filmed the set as it was engulfed by flames.

"It was pretty hard to sit there and watch all those hours of long hard work on the models go up in smoke," Bruce said.

Many miniatures are "movie set" models, made with a good side and a false side.

He paid visits to the Disney studios twice, but learned most of his techniques from study and experimentation.

Pierce plans to have a "major studio preview" for the neighbors when he has his films complete.

## Red Cross Volunteers Map Plans for Fund Campaign

Initial and basic plans for conducting the forthcoming Red Cross campaign in Torrance were discussed by Area Chairman Albert Isen and top volunteer aides at a meeting

held this week at the home of the residential chairman, Mrs. Grover Whyte, 1620 Post Ave.

New Red Cross fund leaders present at the first round-up session were the following who have volunteered to serve as residential colonels under the

**New Course to Aid Undecided Students**  
A new course entitled "Occupational Study" will be offered at Harbor Junior College during the spring semester, it was announced by Nicholas Zorotovich, Chairman of the Social Science Division.

The course is designed primarily to help students who are uncertain regarding their vocational plans and will be taught by Miss Florence Murphy, formerly a supervisor with the California State Department of Employment and with the Central Employment Service of the Los Angeles City Schools,

direction of Mrs. Whyte: Mrs. Glenn L. Amos, 1215 Felbar; Mrs. Elmo Reese, 20938 LaSalle; Mrs. Clem J. Bolles, 1851 Reynosa Dr.; Mrs. John F. Hunt, 24236 Adolph Ave., and Mrs. William Barnard, 924 Cal-

le Miramar.

Current project of the fund-raising group, as set forth by Isen, will be the "mobilization of a complete volunteer unit necessary to carry out a productive campaign program throughout Torrance for the Red Cross services."

Other volunteer officials attending the meeting included W. A. Felker, advance gift chairman; Mervin M. Schwab, commerce and industry chairman; and Mrs. Murray Rudnick, business chairman.

**Tool Design Offered By Harbor College**

Courses which are basic training for those seeking employment in aircraft and other metal industries as tool designers will be offered in the extended day division of Harbor Junior College during the spring semester, Raymond J. Casey, director, said yesterday.



(Herald-Photo)

**PREPARING FUND DRIVE . . .** Volunteer workers go over campaign kits getting ready for the annual Red Cross Fund Campaign which will get under way here about March 1. Shown here are residential leaders of the campaign. Left to right are Mrs. E. N. Reese, 20938 La Salle; Mrs. John F. Hunt, 24236 Adolph Ave.; Mrs. Grover C. Whyte, 1620 Post Ave., residential chairman; Mrs. Glenn Amos, 1215 Felbar; and Mrs. Clem Bolles, 1851 Reynosa Dr.

## Chamber Takes Charge of Mrs. America Contest

The Torrance Chamber of Commerce yesterday officially accepted sponsorship of the local contest to select the next Mrs. America, and President Paul D. Loranger indicated how his organization feels about the contest when he said,

"We intend to have our Mrs. Torrance become Mrs. California and then go on to be the next Mrs. America."

At the same time, Loranger announced that Paul Diamond, Chairman of the local contest,

This year's 17th Annual Mrs. America Contest, Loranger indicated, is open to any married woman over 21 years old, and is being conducted in commu-

ties throughout the U.S. under sponsorship of the American Gas Association.

Loranger let it be known that the contest is by no means a bathing beauty affair with major emphasis being placed on the homemaking capabilities of the contestants.

"A pleasing and attractive personality is important, however," he said.

He reported the distribution of application blanks is now in process.

"Any lady interested," he added, "may secure application blanks at the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, Southern California Gas Co. offices, Jim Dandy Market, Roth's Market, Liberty Home Appliance Co.,

National Home Appliance Co., Frank's Furniture Co., Burk's Bargain Spot, Star Furniture,

The Gay Shop, Torrance Heating and Appliance, Paul's Chevrolet Sales and Service, and many other local merchants."

Blanks also are available at the TORRANCE HERALD.

Additional information on the contest also is available by calling the Torrance Chamber of Commerce, FAirfax 2-8814, Loranger indicated.

The next Mrs. America will win more than \$15,000 worth of useful prizes and a week long trip for herself and her husband to Ellinger Village, Fla., where the final contest will be held.